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Tuesday, January 15, 2013

# THE MORNING NEWS

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## Aruba's Children's & Youth Balloon Parade in San Nicolas

Nothing defines adorable quite as perfectly as Aruba's annually Balloon Parade in San Nicolas this past Sunday, the first day parade of carnival, and one of the most fun of them all. Costumes are casual but face makeup is remarkable and glitter abounds. Little ones enjoy the dress up and showing off for the crowds, as they are initiated into the carnival culture at an early age.

This year, leading the parade was Upgrade Music and TOB with a message for all youth as their costumes consisted of the new "Love My



## Aruba Marriott names Tom Calame as General Manager

### Accomplished Industry Leader brings years of International Experience

Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino is pleased to announce the appointment of Tom Calame as General Manager. In this position, Calame will oversee all aspects of the hotel operations, as well as the maximization of guest satisfaction, financial performance and staff development.

Tom Calame's impressive hospitality career spans almost 25 years and numerous continents. Calame comes to the Aruba Marriott most recently by way of the Renaissance Amsterdam Hotel, where he held the position of General Manager.

Calame's work with the Marriott brand began in 1988 as an APT trainee at the Bethesda Marriott Hotel. After completing his training, he returned to his native Amsterdam where he held various positions at the Amsterdam Marriott. Quickly climbing the ranks, Calame set the pre-opening



New GM Aruba Marriott  
Tom Calame

strategy for the JW Marriott Mexico City and in 1999, accepted the position of Director of Operations at the Renaissance Grand Beach Resort in St. Thomas. Subsequently, Calame was promoted to Resident Manager to open JW Marriott Cancun Resort. In 2002, Calame went

on to become the Hotel Manager at the Casa Magna Marriott Cancun Resort before accepting his first General Manager position at the JW Marriott Lima in 2004, where he received the General Manager of the Year Award.

Fluent in Dutch, English and Spanish, Tom Calame brings to the position years of international and multi-cultural experience. Calame holds a degree in Hotel Management from the College Heerlen in the Netherlands and an MBA from the University of Liverpool, United Kingdom.

"I'm thrilled to be joining this team of enthusiastic professionals and am fully dedicated to continuing the Aruba Marriott tradition of providing the highest level of service in order to meet and exceed guest expectations," says Calame.

Body" logo tee shirts. The "Love My Body" campaign endorsed by the Ministry of Social Affairs is a reminder to all to enjoy carnival but practice moderation, keeping control while imbibing responsibly.

Aruba's Quota Club volunteers were also on hand to enforce one of their most im-

portant programs: preserving our hearing. Free day-glow colored earplugs were distributed to all parents to be certain that delicate young ears were properly protected. They made the perfect accessories to the colorful makeup, costumes and balloons.

(See more photos on pg 4)  
By Rosalie Klein

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## National Library's main branch officially reopens



**Astrid Britten, Lara Kuiperi and Minister Dowers**

After nearly two years of extensive structural renovations

conducted an officially opening ceremony Sunday evening, January 13.

Aruba's Minister of Justice and Education, Arthur Dowers, joined BNA's Director Astrid Britten and Assistant Director Lourdes Croes in welcoming a number of local luminaries connected to the arts. The cultural evening was an example of how the library is a center for not only literary, but performing and visual arts. "The heart of the community," as Director Britten described it, has often been the site of musical performances and art expositions,



**Digna Lacle Herrera reciting her poem**



**Tamara Richardson co author of Sibling Voices of Sunrise City**

and an attractive face lift, the main branch of Aruba's National Library on George Madurostraat in Oranjestad,



**Gregory Richardson donates a copy of his book "Sibling Voices of Sunrise City" to the library**

tions, drawing the community together to enhance their appreciation of culture and intellect.

Aruba's first library opened in 1949, and then moved to the landmark building that is now the Ministry of Culture. The more modern branch was opened in 1986, providing an environment where students could research, and youngsters would learn to enjoy the written word. Both the Minister and BNA Director expressed that providing a place where young minds can explore and expand is the essential purpose of the library.

Towards this purpose, the renovations include a drastic expansion of digital services, bringing the BNA into the 21st century with increased Internet access for visitors.

The opening ceremonies paid homage to all the arts, with musical performances by Livio Hermans on the piano, Choral Group La Escala and finally, mellow jazz from famed percussionist Carlos Bislip. Noted poetess and teacher

Digna Lacle-Herrera recited her original work for the occasion, "Our Pride is!" via video. A new book, titled

**BNA Director, Minister and honored guests**

"Sibling Voices of Sunrise City" by sister and brother writing team, Tamara and Gregory Richardson, was launched. It is a collection of prose and poetry reflecting the impact of being raised in Aruba's east end community of San Nicolas, with its highly multi-cultural make-up. Finally, poet Roberto Croes presented his tribute to the library with an original work titled "A Book."

All this week, the library will continue its celebratory program with daily after school and evening events. Today at from 4:00 to 5:00 PM will be the presentation of the book "The Princess who did not want to Brush her Hair," by Olga Buckley and Desiree Correa. From 7:30 to 9:30 PM will be a preview of the new film regarding the Compa Nanzi folkloric tales of the region, with storytellers Amina Meeks-Blackwood, Emerita Emerencia and author Carol Britton-Gonzalez from Cosa Rica, with a presentation of the film "Anansi's Gift."

Tomorrow, Wednesday, will be a workshop for aspir-

ing writers ages 16 and over from 3:30 to 5:00 PM with Jules Marchena. In the evening a concert of local



**Carlos Bislip and the new exposition room**

music will be presented beginning at 7:30.

Thursday evening's program will be dedicated to the art of dance, with a performance by Club di Movimiento at 6:00 PM. The afternoon will feature the Jamaican storyteller, Amina Meeks Blackwood. She will perform Caribbean stories for all ages from 4:00 to 5:00 PM.

Islanders are urged to come and enjoy their newly refurbished library and the complete week of programs they have organized, dedicated to all aspects of the arts.

**By Rosalie Klein**





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## McIlroy signs up with Nike in blockbuster deal

ABU DHABI (AFP) - The world's No.1 golfer Rory McIlroy confirmed here on Monday that he had signed a multi-year sponsorship deal with American sports-wear giant Nike.

No exact details of what the deal was worth were released at an announcement ceremony in Abu Dhabi, but press reports have estimated it could bring the 23-year-old Northern Irishman up to \$250 million (190 million euros) over 10 years.

"I chose Nike for a number of reasons," said McIlroy. "It's a company and a brand that really resonates with me. It's young. It's athletic. It's innovative. They are committed to being the best as am I."

## ELMAR proposes even more services in 2013



Last Thursday evening, ELMAR NV (Aruba's electric distribution company) held a special New Year's reception for their corporate members, invited guests and business clients. These were invited to "step into the future" together with ELMAR.

With a view to the future, ELMAR briefly reviewed 2012 during which the company took some important steps to guarantee the stability of the future of its core business, which is the distribution of electricity to the community of Aruba.

According to Wanda Broeksema, ELMAR has a special focus on the service to clients. This vision has received much attention during 2012. Broeksema indicated that as of February 2012 they decided that the offices at Oranjestad and Hato would remain open during the lunch

hour, 12:00 to 1:00 to accommodate clients wishing to come in during their lunch break to make payments, get information, or submit petitions, etc. Reportedly, clients are especially appreciative of this opportunity.



Another service which ELMAR provides their clients since last year is the "Hunto Nos Ta Spaar" (together we can save) program

in cooperation with Utilities NV and WEB NV. They have a dedicated number that clients can call for information or for an appointment. A special team stands by, ready to visit homes to offer free consultation on what to do to reduce their consumption.

ELMAR's director, Ing. Robert Henriquez, indicated that their 2013 plans for the company continues with an emphasis on service to clients and offering advice on how they can make better use of electricity. Henriquez also reported on some eight projects of long duration initiated in 2012, which are designed to maintain the electrical grid optimal, and to maintain flex-

ibility, which should result in an electrical product that the individual client and commerce can depend on.



ELMAR's director, Henriquez, also reported on other big projects that will be visible to the public in 2013. One such project is the Solar Park at the Airport. Also, the introduction of the Pre-Paid Meter located in different Barrios in Noord and San Nicolaas. They expect to see an expansion of this program. Two other elements to receive attention in 2013 will be "Smart Meters" and the use of "Electric Cars." With respect to the "Smart Meters," Henriquez indicated that an analysis of the Caribbean region where these meters have been implemented have resulted in being very beneficial to clients. They give clients a better view of their electrical consumption, the history and even the their daily usage of electricity.

Regarding the "Electric Car," Robert Henriquez re-

ported that they have already explored this aspect in 2012 and that they are working on finding a way to encourage our people to make use of electric vehicles. ELMAR considers electric vehicles a tremendously good product; good for our environment and it will enable clients to reduce their transportation costs, even more so than with hybrid vehicles.

Clients of ELMAR can expect more communication from ELMAR during 2013. Executives of ELMAR have affirmed that the company's commitment is to their clients. They also affirm that each employee of the company is committed to offering the best of service to clients.

Invited guests enjoyed a delightful evening celebrating a new year with promises of many new opportunities for all of us.





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## More photos Children's & Youth Balloon Parade S.N.



## Carnaval Schedule

### TUE. - JAN - 15

7:30 p.m. - Pre-Finals Aruba Caiso & Soca Monarch Festival (Joe Laveist - San Nicolas)

### WED. - JAN - 16

7:30 p.m. - Pre-Finals Aruba Caiso & Soca Monarch Festival (Joe Laveist - San Nicolas)

### THU. - JAN - 17

Pre-Finals Aruba Caiso & Soca Monarch Festival (Joe Laveist - San Nicolas)

### FRI. - JAN - 18

7 p.m. - Tumberito 2013 (Entertainment Center)

### SAT. 19

7:30 p.m. - **Final Aruba Caiso & Soca Monarch Festival** (Joe Laveist - San Nicolas)

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<b>Tuesday</b> JANUARY 15, 2013	1) TSUNAMI 2) LE GROOVE 3) YOUTH XTREME 4) UPGRADE MUSIC 5) JE'O
<b>Wednesday</b> JANUARY 16, 2013	1) SIMPLEMENTE PA BO 2) CLAUDIUS & OREO 3) VIRUS BAND 4) XC LANZ 5) HOT ONES BAND 6) D'LICIOUS
<b>Thursday</b> JANUARY 17, 2013	1) THE FAILURES 2) D.U.R.O. 3) N.B.O. 4) ARUBA INVADERS 5) THISS AND THAT 6) ZETA BAND 7) DUSHI BAND 8) ROBERT Y SU SOLO BANDA SHOW

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## 'Zero Dark Thirty' tops N. American box office

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — "Zero Dark Thirty," Kathryn Bigelow's controversial movie about the hunt for Osama bin Laden, stormed to the top spot at the North American weekend box office, figures showed Monday.

The Oscar-tipped film took in \$24.4 million in its first weekend on national release, and as its star Jessica Chastain won the best actress award at the Golden Globes on Sunday.

Second and third places went to newcomers, the comedy "A Haunted House" and the Sean Penn crime saga "Gangster Squad," with \$18.1 million and \$17.1 million respectively.

They were trailed by Quentin Tarantino's blood-soaked spaghetti Western tribute "Django Unchained," which won two Globes on Sunday and earned \$11 million according to box office tracker Exhibitor Relations.

Musical adaptation "Les Misérables" took fifth place, raking in \$9.6 million. On Sunday the movie won best musical/comedy film as well as acting Globes for Hugh Jackman and Anne Hathaway.

"The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey," the long-awaited first part of Peter Jackson's "Lord of the Rings" prequel trilogy, was in sixth spot, racking up \$9.2 million, for a total of \$278 million so far.

Steven Spielberg's multiple Oscar-nominated "Lincoln," starring Daniel Day-Lewis, was in seventh place in the standings, taking in \$6.3 million for a total of \$152.6 million so far.

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## Venezuelan ruling party calls pro-Chavez demo

CARACAS (AFP) — Venezuela's ruling party Monday called a rally for later this month to counter one convened by opposition parties angry that the government remains in power even though President Hugo Chavez is too sick to preside over it.

The dueling rallies are scheduled for January 23, the anniversary of the end of a rightwing dictatorship in 1958.

The date is often used by supporters or critics of

Chavez to hold street rallies, but this year it is particularly sensitive politically because Chavez is recovering in Cuba from his fourth round of cancer surgery, on December 11 in Havana.

The 58-year-old leftist firebrand was to have been sworn in January 10, but in the end he was still too sick to make the trip, as he battles post-operation complications.

Congress voted that the inauguration -- stemming from Chavez's re-election win in

October -- can be delayed. The Supreme Court agreed.

Last week an opposition umbrella grouping whose Spanish acronym is MUD called a rally for January 23 to protest the fact that Chavez's government remains in power. It wants strict adherence to the constitution and an interim president to take over while new elections are prepared.

The ruling United Socialist Party of Venezuela, however, hit back Monday with a

call for street crowds of its own to defend Chavez and his populist government.

"On January 23, the forces of the revolution are going to take to the streets," said party campaign manager Jorge Rodríguez.

Marches from the four corners of Caracas will empty into a neighborhood called 23 de Enero, a Chavez stronghold.

Henrique Capriles, the state governor whom Chavez beat in the October presidential election, has said he ac-

cepts the Supreme Court ruling allowing Chavez's swearing in to be postponed. He has yet to comment on the call for an opposition march on January 23.

Meanwhile, Chavez's handpicked political heir, Vice President Nicolas Maduro, thanked Fidel Castro and his brother Raul, the current president, for the care that Chavez is receiving in Havana, the communist party daily Granma said Monday.

Maduro visited Havana over the weekend and saw Chavez.



## S&P keeps Netherlands AAA rating on negative outlook

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Standard & Poor's affirmed Monday the Netherlands's top AAA rating but kept it on negative outlook, warning the government's plans to cut the budget deficit could falter.

While praising the government's track record on fiscal policy, S&P noted that the Dutch economy is heavily dependent on exports and therefore vulnerable to shocks from its eurozone partners.

"We believe the risks of fiscal slippage could rise substantially should this year's economic growth fall significantly below our current assumption of 0.3 percent," said the ratings agency in a statement.

The eurozone is widely

expected to continue to contract in 2013.

The Dutch government aims to push down the public deficit to the EU limit of 3.0 percent this year from an estimated 3.7 percent in 2012.

The ratings agency noted that the country's debt was set to continue rising from 62 percent of GDP as the deficit remains higher than growth.

S&P also warned the country faces a risk from a drop in property prices hitting highly indebted homeowners.

"The continuing decline in house prices and the uncertain external environment are pushing up precautionary savings, hence weighing on domestic consumer demand," it said.

## Ban renews call for Israel to halt West Bank settlement

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - UN leader Ban Ki-moon on Monday renewed a call for Israel to scrap its plans to build settlements in a controversial West Bank area where police have evicted dozens of Palestinian activists.

Ban is "following with concern" developments around the "E1" area on the outskirts of Jerusalem, said a statement released by his press office.

"He notes that Israeli settlements in the West Bank are illegal under international law. The secretary general repeats his call that any such settlement plans for E1 must be rescinded," the statement added.

Hundreds of Israeli police entered a protest camp in E1 early Sunday and took away about 200 activists who had set up the camp two days earlier.

Israel recently moved for-

ward with plans to build in the area, which links Jerusalem to an Israeli settlement, drawing international criticism for the move, which Palestinians say would effectively end the chances for a contiguous Palestinian state.

Ban noted that the Palestinian demonstrations and the Israeli evacuation of the protesters had been "largely non-violent" and added that the right to stage peaceful protests had "to be fully respected."

## Coca-Cola ad spots address obesity problem

NEW YORK (AFP) - Facing new regulations that target high-calorie soda drinks, US soft-drink giant Coca-Cola will unveil a pair of television ads this week that acknowledge the calories in its products and encourage

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## Colombian peace talks resume with pressure to act fast

HAVANA (AFP) - The Colombian government and leftist FARC rebels pressed each other Monday to speed up peace talks to end their half-century-old conflict as the rivals resumed negotia-

tions in Cuba.

The two sides returned from a three-week holiday break stating their desire to quicken the pace of negotiations in their fourth attempt to end bloodshed that has left 600,000 dead and displaced four million since 1964.

The head of the Marxist guerrilla group's delegation, Ivan Marquez, called on the government to "cease the warmongering rhetoric that accompanies false promises to resolve social problems."

Unveiling proposals to resolve a land conflict, he told reporters that the administration of President Juan Manuel Santos must "publicly commit to presenting quick and tangible solutions that are devoid of demagoguery."

The rebels declared a unilateral ceasefire that ends January 20, but the govern-

ment has continued its offensive, accusing the guerrillas of continuing to attack civilians and soldiers.

The Marxist rebels have said they will not extend their ceasefire unless the government declares one too.

"We are in a phase in which we can get results for an agreement to end the conflict," said chief government negotiator Humberto de la Calle in a pre-recorded statement, stressing that Colombians want an "efficient, dignified, quick and serious" peace process.

Santos, who has warned that the talks must conclude by November, said last month that the negotiations were moving slowly.

The longtime enemies launched the peace talks in Norway in October and continued in Havana in November.



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## International News

### Shebab say second French soldier dies

MOGADISHU (AFP) - Somalia's Al-Qaeda-linked Shebab said Monday a French soldier wounded and captured during a failed hostage rescue raid has died and published pictures of the purported commando chief's body.

France's military operation Saturday to free a French spy held hostage by the Shebab since July 2009 was a failure, with another French soldier killed and the situation of the hostage unclear.

The Shebab have posted on their Twitter account two pictures they claim are of a French commando chief killed in the botched raid.

French Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault denounced the publication of the photographs. "This is a particularly odious display," he said.

The photos posted on the Shebab's Twitter account show a male corpse dressed in a black button-up shirt and

khaki trousers, lying face up on an orange tarpaulin alongside an array of combat gear. A small crucifix was seen around his neck.

The operation by France's elite DGSE secret service was an attempt to rescue an intelligence agent with the alias Denis Alex, who was captured on Bastille Day 2009.

Le Drian said Saturday that the raid was sparked by the "intransigence of the terrorists who have refused to negotiate for three and a half years and were holding Denis Alex in inhuman conditions."

Shebab extremists denied Le Drian's assertion they had killed the hostage but on Monday said they had decided his "fate."

On Twitter, they said they will publicly disclose their "unanimous verdict" in the "coming hours," along with background information on the events leading to Satur-

### Islamists stopping refugees fleeing: UN

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - Islamist guerrillas in northern Mali are stopping thousands of refugees from fleeing the conflict zone where they are fending off French attacks, the UN said Monday.

An estimated 30,000 people have been displaced because of fighting in central and northern Mali over the past week when the Al-Qaeda-linked Islamists launched an offensive into government territory, deputy UN spokesman Eduardo del Buey said.

"It is feared that the number of people affected may be greater as it has been reported that some Islamist groups have prevented people from moving south," del Buey added.

The Mauritanian government has said that "thousands of refugees are on their way from Mali to the Mauritanian border," the spokesman said.

The UN's World Food Programme estimates that 500,000 people have been displaced in Mali since rebels and the Islamists took over the north of the country in March last year.

### 57 countries demand UN Council order Syria war crimes case

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - Fifty-seven countries on Monday demanded that the UN Security Council refer the Syria conflict to the International Criminal Court for a war crimes investigation.

Switzerland sent a petition demanding the move to the 15-member Security Council, the only body that can refer the case to the ICC but which is bitterly divided over the 22-month-old war.

The signatories included many European nations, such as Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Spain.

Australia, Japan, New Zealand and a number of African and Pacific nations also endorsed the initiative.

Libya and Tunisia, which also saw Arab Spring uprisings, also signed the call, which highlighted a UN investigation that said there is strong evidence of crimes against humanity and war crimes in Syria over the past two years.

The letter demanded that the Security Council refer the Syria conflict for an ICC investigation "without exceptions and irrespective of the alleged perpetrators."

"At the very least, the council should send out an unequiv-

ocal message urging the Syrian authorities and all other parties to fully respect international human rights," the letter states.

Permanent members Russia and China have vetoed three resolutions which would have just threatened sanctions against President Bashar al-Assad's regime.

As Syria is not an ICC member, only a Security Council referral could start a war crimes investigation. But diplomats said the divide on Syria is so deep that no move by the body is now possible.

Russia and China refused to sign the Swiss petition.

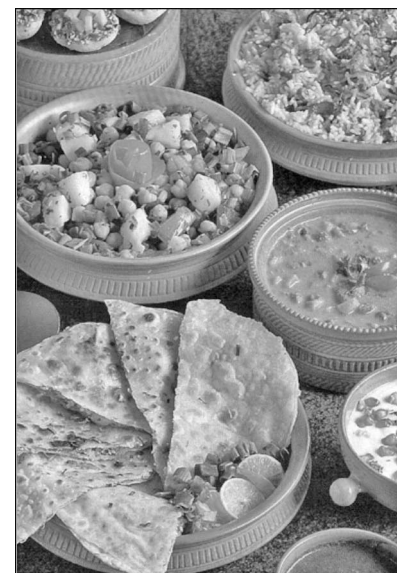
The United States has not signed the letter because it is not an ICC member, but it does support the initiative, diplomats said. Other countries also said they could not sign as they were not ICC members either, the diplomats added.

Russia has been the main opponent of international action on the conflict, which the UN estimates has now left more than 60,000 people dead.

The Russian government reaffirmed Sunday that it opposes any move to force Assad from power as part of any deal to get talks started on a political settlement.



LONDON (AFP) - Prince William and his wife Catherine's first child is due in July, St James's Palace announced on Monday. The palace also said the mother-to-be was returning to full health following her hospitalisation last month with severe morning sickness. The brief update comes at a time when William and 31-year-old Kate had most likely intended to announce the pregnancy. Last week the duchess appeared to be back to full health as she watched a performance of the Cirque du Soleil in London for her birthday. The child will be direct in line to the throne after William and his father Prince Charles, and should become monarch regardless of whether it is a boy or a girl thanks to a change in the laws of succession.



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## Health & Living

# Fast food linked to child asthma - study

PARIS (AFP) - Children who frequently eat fast food are far likelier to have severe asthma compared to counterparts who tuck into fruit, a large international study said.

Researchers asked nearly half a million teenagers aged 13-14 and children aged six and seven about their eating habits and whether in the previous year they had experienced wheezing, eczema or an itchy, blocked nose when they did not have cold or flu.

The questionnaires -- completed by a parent or guardian for the younger children -- were distributed in scores of countries.

It marks the latest phase in a long-running collaborative programme, the International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood (ISAAC), which was launched in 1991.

The investigators filtered out factors that could skew results, such as maternal smok-

ing during pregnancy, sedentary lifestyle and body-mass index, in order to focus purely on diet.

They found that fast food was the only food type that could be clearly linked to asthma severity.

Three or more weekly servings of fast food were associated with a 39-percent increase in the risk of severe asthma among teens and a 27-percent increase among younger children.

It also added to the risk of eczema and severe rhinitis.

In contrast, eating three or more weekly portions of fruit led to a reduction in symptom severity of between 11 and 14 percent, respectively.

The study, which appears in the British Medical Association journal Thorax, noted that to prove an association is not to prove a cause -- but argued that a further inquiry was clearly needed.

## Important Information of: Dengue fever

Dengue (DENG-gay) fever is a disease — ranging from mild to severe — caused by four related viruses spread by a particular species of mosquito. No specific treatment for dengue fever exists, and most people recover. But if you have a severe form of the disease, you need hospital care.

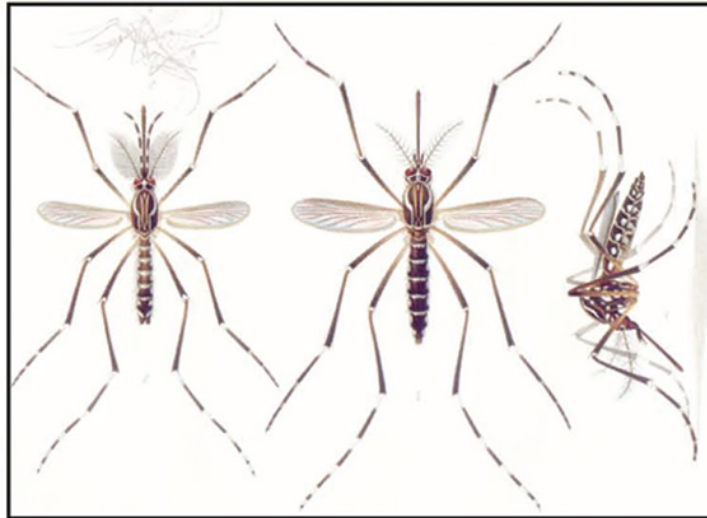
Millions of cases of dengue infection occur worldwide each year. Most often, dengue fever occurs in urban areas of tropical and subtropical regions.

*Signs and symptoms of dengue fever vary, depending on the form and severity of the disease.*

### Dengue fever

With the mild form of the disease, you may experience some or all of these signs and symptoms:

- \*High fever, up to 105 F (40.6 C)
- \*A rash over most of your body, which may subside after a couple of days and then reappear
- \*Severe headache, backache or both
- \*Pain behind your eyes
- \*Severe joint and muscle pain
- \*Nausea and vomiting
- \*Sign and symptoms usually begin about four to seven days after being bitten by a mosquito carrying a dengue virus. Mild dengue fever rarely



The Aedes aegypti mosquito

causes death, and your symptoms will usually subside within a week after starting.

### Dengue hemorrhagic fever

More-severe forms of the disease usually begin the same way as the mild form (dengue fever) then become worse after several days.

— a more severe form of the disease than initial dengue fever — can cause signs and symptoms of dengue fever plus:

- \*Significant damage to your blood and lymph vessels
- \*A decrease in the number of blood cells that help your blood clot (platelets)
- \*Bleeding from the nose and mouth
- \*Bleeding under the skin, which gives the appearance of bruising

### \*Death

**Dengue shock syndrome** — the most severe form of the disease — may cause signs and symptoms of mild dengue fever plus:

- \*Severe abdominal pain
- \*Frequent vomiting
- \*Disorientation
- \*Fluid (plasma) leakage from blood vessels
- \*Heavy bleeding
- \*A sudden drop in blood pressure (shock)
- \*Death

Severe signs and symptoms may appear after your fever has improved. In a small number of cases, people with a severe form of the disease die of it. Modern supportive hospital care decreases this risk.

### When to see a doctor

If you have any signs or

symptoms of dengue fever, see your doctor. If you've recently traveled to a region in which the disease is known to occur, be sure to inform your doctor.

### Causes

Dengue fever is caused by any one of four dengue viruses spread by the Aedes aegypti mosquito. These mosquitoes thrive in and near human habitations, where they breed in even the cleanest water.

Mosquitoes transmit the virus back and forth between humans.

You can become infected with dengue fever more than once. This happens when you're exposed to a different one of the four dengue viruses from the one to which you were previously exposed. Infection a second time is typically what causes the more severe form of the disease — dengue hemorrhagic fever.

### Risk factors

Factors that put you at

greater risk of developing dengue fever or a more severe form of the disease include:

- \*Living or traveling in tropical areas. Dengue virus transmission occurs year-round, although the risk is highest during a recognized dengue fever outbreak.
- \*Prior infection with a dengue fever virus. Previous infection with a dengue fever virus increases your risk of a more severe form of the disease. This is especially true for children.

### Complications

Most people with dengue fever recover within five to 14 days. Some, particularly adults, may feel listless, tired and even depressed for several weeks to months after being infected.

If severe, dengue fever can lead to dengue hemorrhagic fever and dengue shock syndrome, those who survive may experience liver, blood vessel and brain damage, as well as seizures

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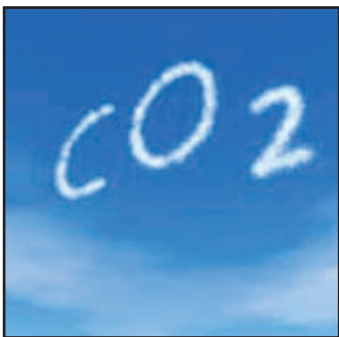
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## Sci-Tech

### Urgent CO2 cuts may spare millions hardship



PARIS (AFP) - Tens of millions of people may be spared droughts and floods by 2050 if Earth-warming carbon emissions peak in 2016 rather than 2030, scientists said.

Climate researchers in Britain and Germany said emission cuts now would delay some crippling impacts by decades and prevent some altogether.

By 2050, an Earth heading for warming of 2-2.5 degrees Celsius (3.6-4.5 degrees Fahrenheit) by 2100 could have two very different faces, depending on the route taken to get there, said their study published in the journal Nature Climate Change.

Policies that cap Earth-warming carbon emissions in 2016 and then reduce them by five percent per year could see between 39 and 68 million people spared exposure to a higher risk of water shortages by 2050, Nigel Arnell of the

University of Reading told AFP.

This is the best-case scenario, though.

In contrast, if emissions peak in 2030 and fall by five percent annually, the number who escape this risk drops to between 17 and 48 million.

Similarly, about 100-161 million people would avoid a higher risk of river flooding on the 2016-peak scenario.

This compares to 52-120 million people if emissions peak 14 years later, said Arnell, director of the university's Walker Institute on climate change.

Under a scenario without any emissions curbs, temperatures could rise as much as 4-5.5 deg C, said the new paper which claimed to be the broadest assessment yet of the benefits of avoiding climate change impacts.

Global average warming of 4 deg C would see almost a billion people have less water in 2100 than they have now, and 330 million will be at greater risk of river flooding, Arnell told a pre-release press conference.

A peak in 2016 seems unlikely, with the world's nations aiming to adopt a new global climate pact by 2015 for entry into force only five years later.

### Kaspersky finds 'Red October' virus

PARIS (AFP) - Kaspersky Lab said Monday it had identified a new computer virus it dubbed "Red October" targeting eastern European countries that appeared to be collecting classified files using NATO and EU encryption.

"The primary focus of this campaign targets countries in Eastern Europe, former USSR Republics, and countries in Central Asia, although victims can be found everywhere, including Western Europe and North America," said the maker of anti-virus software in a statement.

Kaspersky Lab said "there is strong technical evidence to indicate the attackers have Russian-speaking origins."

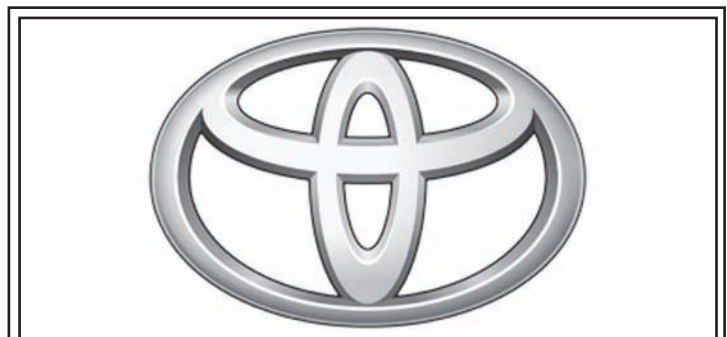
Red October, which has been active since at least 2007, appears to collect files encrypted with software used by several entities from the European Union to NATO, it added.

Kaspersky said Red October also infected smartphones and collected login information to test on other systems.

Founded in 1997, Kaspersky Lab employs more than 2,300 specialists and is a leading IT security and anti-virus software company.



SEOUL (AFP) : This handout picture released by South Korea's Samsung Electronics on January 14, 2013 shows employees using smartphone display screens to make a figure of 100 million in Seoul. Samsung Electronics said that global sales of its flagship Galaxy S smartphones had topped 100 million since the first model debuted in 2010, cementing its dominant position over US rival Apple.



DETROIT (AFP) - Toyota regained the global sales crown lost when the 2011 Japanese tsunami devastated its supplies as US rival General Motors saw its share of the global market shrink. Toyota first overtook GM as the world's biggest carmaker in 2008, a position GM had held for 77 consecutive years. A year later, GM was forced to restructure under bankruptcy protection and has shed a number of unprofitable brands. While the largest US automaker is once again making record profits, its sales have been hit by a deep downturn in Europe. Toyota maintains a much larger lead and has forecast its 2012 sales will jump 22 percent to 9.7 million vehicles.



## COMICS

## PICKLES



## MOMMA



## CALVIN and HOBBS



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## THE STAFF

## ACROSS

1. Prince Charming's party
5. Portion of pills
9. Kegler's coup
14. Irish Rose's love
15. Rends
16. Fifth Commandment verb
17. Lanky ones
19. Sacrifice table
20. Put through a filter
21. Procreates
22. Word in MPH
23. Parts of baseball uniforms
24. Crinkly material
28. Ruined, slangily
30. Thing
34. Shark hitchhiker
36. Table scrap
37. "All I Have Is Dream"
38. Demonic
39. Former "Cheers" waitress
41. The Nairobi
42. "You bet!"
43. Esposito teammate
44. Pee Wee and Della
46. Poet Gallagher
47. Exterminates
49. Left a chair
50. "Easy —"
52. Gob
54. Gradients
57. Expresses with motions
62. Two-fisted type

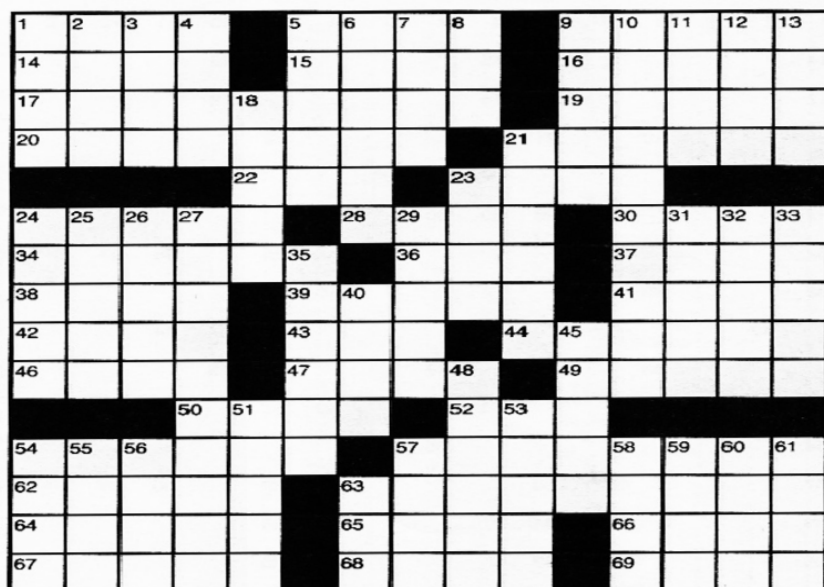
63. Famed toyshop locale
64. Avoid
65. Kind of arch
66. Water jar
67. Restaurant hand-outs
68. Word before step or stop
69. Robin's roost

## DOWN

1. Streisand's nickname
2. Help a hood
3. Polygraph flunker
4. Olin of "Polish Wedding"
5. Radio-controlled plane
6. Edmonton team
7. Broke a traffic rule
8. Serpentine

9. Like some cheddar
10. Auto racer with the best starting spot
11. Feed the pot
12. "On the — to El Dorado" (Disney film)
13. Fumbles
18. Hamelin man
21. Pancake mix
23. Creamed —
24. Wave top
25. Variety show
26. Muslim VIPs
27. Widely divergent
29. Emulate a miser
31. Weightlifter's pride
32. Entertainer Adams et al.
33. Fraternal club member

35. Loves to pieces
40. Spring bloom
45. Neighbor of Mars
48. Audiophile's set
51. "Ten — a Dance"
53. Fall bloomer
54. Feigned
55. Stubbs of the Four Tops
56. Presage
57. — dancer (disco employee)
58. Knowledgeable about
59. Assigned character
60. House additions
61. Pants part
63. Doze



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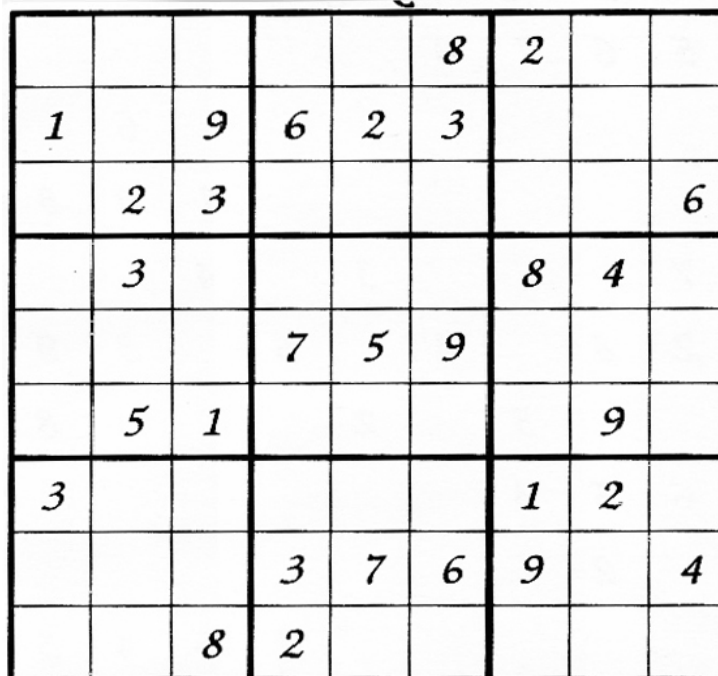
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## Sudoku



SOLUTION

8	5	9	1	7	2	8	6	4
7	8	6	9	4	5	1	2	3
2	6	1	5	8	6	7	9	3
1	9	4	6	5	2	8	7	3
5	7	8	2	9	1	4	3	6
9	1	7	4	6	5	2	8	3
8	4	5	2	9	6	7	1	3
6	3	2	8	1	7	9	4	5

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



# Finance

## Obama warns of crisis unless debt ceiling is raised

WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama warned Monday that unless Republican lawmakers agree to raise the US sovereign debt ceiling the country could face a new economic crisis and global markets could go "haywire."

"While I'm willing to compromise and find common ground over how to reduce our deficits, America cannot afford another debate with this Congress about whether or not they should pay the bills they've already racked up."

Congressional refusal to raise the debt limit beyond its current level of \$16.4 trillion could delay key government payments.

Obama warned that this could include Social Security checks and veterans benefits, paychecks to troops, air traffic controllers, and the honoring of contracts with small businesses.

"Investors around the world will ask if the United States of America is in fact a safe bet," he added. "Markets could go haywire, interest rates would spike for anybody who borrows money... It would be a self-inflicted wound on the economy."

The United States ran up against its current debt limit at the end of 2012, but the government is using "extraordinary measures" to extend the limit until late February.

Obama said any potential solution lies with the Republican House leadership, some of whom have demanded that any rise in the debt ceiling be matched dollar-for-dollar by deep government spending cuts.

Lawmakers can "act responsibly, and pay America's bills, or they can act irresponsibly and put America through another economic crisis," Obama said.

Republicans reacted swiftly, essentially ignoring Obama's demand to de-couple the spending debate from the debt ceiling and giving every indication that the face-off will continue.

"The president and his allies need to get serious about spending, and the debt-limit debate is the perfect time for it," Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said.

He added that fellow Republicans look forward to working with Obama "to do something about this huge, huge problem."

House Speaker John Boehner acknowledged that the consequences of failing to raise the debt limit are real, "but so too are the consequences of allowing our spending problem to go unresolved."

Boehner said the Republican-controlled House of Representatives will "do its job" by passing legislation to control spending and meets US debt obligations and would insist the Democratic majority in the Senate do the same.

Obama also warned off the renegade House Republicans

who are reportedly considering letting the US government go into default and actually shut down temporarily unless Obama agrees to dramatic federal spending cuts.

"The last time Republicans in Congress even flirted with this idea, our AAA credit rating was downgraded for the first time in our history," said Obama, referring to the bitter political battle over the ceiling in 2011.

A potentially bigger fiscal showdown is taking shape once again, with battles over the debt ceiling, the national budget and the fate of mandated spending cuts all converge around the same time: late February.

Republicans are smarting after accepting a year-end deal to avert the so-called fiscal cliff that imposed a tax hike on the richest Americans -- a major concession for conservatives.

But the measure delayed for two months any handling of the \$100 billion in automatic spending cuts set to hit in 2013 and that had threatened to drive America back into recession.

## Saudi denies seeking to push up oil price

RIYADH (AFP) - The world's biggest oil exporter Saudi Arabia denied on Monday that a five percent cut in its crude output was aimed at boosting prices on international markets.

"Fluctuations in production depend on domestic demand, which is seasonal in nature as it peaked in the summer before declining during the last quarter of the year," oil ministry adviser Ibrahim Mehanna told AFP.

"Several challenges to growth in the eurozone and fears about the US financial crisis have affected the demand for oil," he said.

He said Riyadh was "fully prepared to respond to these changes and reaffirms its commitment to meet the demands of its customers."

"We are still firmly committed to ensuring the stability of the oil market."

Analyst Matt Smith of Schneider Electric said on


Monday after markets opened in New York that a reported five percent drop in December Saudi oil production -- about nine million barrels per day -- was to "help support prices" by reducing supply.

Global oil prices rose on Monday after the completion of a major US pipeline expansion project that will cut oversupplied inventories in the United States, the world's biggest consumer.

In midday London deals, Brent North Sea crude for delivery in February added 62 cents to \$111.26 a barrel.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for February or West Texas Intermediate (WTI), gained 66 cents to \$94.22 a barrel.

The Seaway Pipeline expansion completed on Friday means 400,000 barrels of crude oil can now be brought each day from the oversupplied midcontinent market around Cushing, Oklahoma, to refiners on the Gulf Coast.



**Daily Exchange Rates**

Current as of: 01/14/2013

	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.83
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.90
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	195.45
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	240.00
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63	28.11
Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95	32.40
Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39	32.84
Japan	JPY	214.88	216.84	201.51

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DETROIT (AFP) : The Audi RS7 is introduced at the 2013 North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Michigan, on January 14, 2013

## Dell shares soar on talk of going private

NEW YORK (AFP) - Dell shares soared on Monday as rumors spread that the Texas-based computer maker was exploring the option of going private with the help of equity firms.

Dell shares were up more than 12 percent to \$12.27 as the close of the trading day neared on the Nasdaq exchange, giving the company a stock-based value of nearly \$22 billion.

Unconfirmed word reached investors that Dell was in talks to delist itself from the exchange and sell itself into private hands, according to Meeschaert Capital Markets president Gregori Volokhine.

Dell declined to comment on what it referred to as rumor and speculation.

The stock surge was attributed to belief in the market that taking the company private would require buyers to pay a "significant premium" to get shares, Volokhine said.

The move, considered far from certain on Monday, would come as smartphones and tablets eclipse laptop and desktop computers as preferred devices for lifestyles in which the Internet is increasingly accessed on the go.

Industry tracker Gartner on Monday reported that the PC market saw shipments worldwide shrink 3.5 percent last year. Dell, the third largest PC maker, saw its share of the market shrink by 12.3 percent.

Volokhine expected Dell to soon make a decision about going private, a move he said would take several investment funds given the high price tag.

Shares of powerhouse Dell rival Hewlett-Packard also rose on Monday, increasing more than five percent to \$16.98 as the formal trading day neared its close. HP sales dropped 6.7 percent last year, according to Gartner.

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

BLOW ASEA ROBIN  
LEAR SALT ERASE  
EASY SPIE NINER  
AVE REST WOODED  
TESTER EMAIL  
ANTI ALREADY  
HARDAS NAILS RUE  
AXIS FIT AEON  
SET BOLDASBRASS  
PLACIDO TIOOI  
CRAWL CLASPS  
TETLEY ODIE MOA  
ATEAM DRYASDUST  
GORME ORAL ERIE  
SNIPS WEDS EFTS



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## Argo' wins at Golden Globes



"ARGO" Best Film

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Ben Affleck's Iran hostage drama "Argo" and musical "Les Miserables" were the big winners Sunday at the Golden Globes, while Steven Spielberg's "Lincoln" went home with a disappointing sole award.

Affleck won both best dramatic film and director for his movie about a CIA mission to rescue diplomats in Tehran in 1979, while "Les Miserables" won best film, actor (Hugh Jackman) and supporting actress (Anne Hathaway) in the musical/comedy category.

As expected Daniel Day-Lewis won best drama actor for his portrayal of Abraham Lincoln, but that was the only top award for Spielberg's film, which had topped the nominations tally with seven at the 70th annual Globe awards.

And favorite Jessica Chastain meanwhile won best drama actress as a relentless CIA agent tracking down Osama bin Laden in Kathryn Bigelow's "Zero Dark Thirty," while Quentin Tarantino's "Django Unchained" won two key prizes.

But the night, to the surprise of some, belonged to Affleck, who took the top two prizes.

The actor-director, who plays a CIA agent who res-

fails to win a best director nod.

Speaking backstage, George Clooney, a producer on "Argo," admitted he was "disappointed," and that Affleck "should have been nominated" for the February 24 Oscars show. "It's disappointing, but we're not dead yet," he added.

Day-Lewis, who had been widely expected to win for his turn in "Lincoln," had to make do with being the only



Daniel Day-Lewis as "Lincoln"

cue six US diplomats from the Canadian ambassador's residence in Tehran in 1979, paid tribute to real-life agents and diplomats, including the actual character he played.

"Really this award is about Tony Mendez. You saw him. He's an American hero. He represents the (US) foreign service making sacrifices every day for Americans. Our troops overseas. I want to thank them very much," he said.

The movie has been accused of taking liberties with history, notably by exaggerating the role of the CIA in getting the US diplomats out, at the expense of the Canadian envoy in Tehran at the time.

But it was a vindication of sorts for Affleck, who was snubbed in the Oscar nominations announced last week,

big winner for Spielberg's movie -- which has also topped nominations for next month's Oscars.

Former president Bill Clinton provided one of the biggest surprises of the night, taking the stage to pay tribute to Spielberg's movie and to the iconic 16th US president.

"A tough fight to push a bill through a bitterly divided House of Representatives -- winning it required the president to make a lot of unsavory deals ... I wouldn't know anything about that," he quipped.

Tarantino's blood-soaked spaghetti Western tribute "Django Unchained" meanwhile won two Globes: best supporting actor for Austrian Christoph Waltz, and best screenplay for the "Pulp Fiction" director himself.



Jodie Foster awarded the Cecil B. De Mille Award lifetime achievement

"This is a damn surprise, and I'm happy to be surprised," said Tarantino, whose film tells the story of a freed slave (Jamie Foxx) who teams up with a dentist-turned-bounty-hunter a few years before the American Civil War.

British songstress Adele, making her first red carpet appearance since giving birth in October, won best song for the theme tune from James Bond blockbuster "Skyfall."

"Hunger Games" star Jennifer Lawrence won best musical/comedy actress for rom-com "Silver Linings Playbook," while best original score went to Ang Lee's "Life of Pi." Scottish-themed "Brave" won best animated feature.

Best foreign language film went to Austrian Michael Haneke's "Amour," which won the Cannes Palme d'Or last year.

On the small screen, terrorism-themed thriller "Homeland" and the quirky Brooklyn hipster comedy "Girls" took top television honors.

One of the most intriguing moments of the night came from Jodie Foster.



British songstress Adele

Receiving a special award, the "Silence of the Lambs" star teased the Globes, hailing her female ex-partner as "one of the deepest loves of my life" -- but then denying she was confirming longstanding rumors that she is lesbian.

"Seriously, I hope that you're not disappointed that there won't be a big coming-out speech tonight, because I already did my coming out about a thousand years ago, back in the Stone Age."



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## 5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an inter-

nationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy,

made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 7 a.m., patrons can now order 2 eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$4.49, (\$5.48 with bacon) or All-you-can-eat pancakes, for \$6.99, again, with free refills on fresh coffee. Breakfast is served until 11 a.m. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (al-



most 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by

two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish at night; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district at now extra cost for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.



## Sport

# Football: Ronaldo wants to see out contract at Real



MADRID (AFP) - Cristiano Ronaldo says he wants to stay with Real Madrid until the end of his contract with the club.

The 27-year-old Portuguese striker's contract with Real runs out in June 2015 but Spanish media have reported that he is unhappy at the club and may leave at the end of the season.

The player has been linked to a move to Paris Saint-Germain or back to Manchester United.

"I want to see out my contract at Real Madrid: I'm very clear about that. After that, well, I don't know what will happen in the future," he said in an interview published on Fifa.com.

Ronaldo, who joined Real Madrid from Manchester United in 2009, said he still believes it is possible for the club to win La Liga despite falling 18 points behind leaders and archrivals Barcelona.

"We haven't started the championship very well for sure. We know that La Liga's an uphill struggle for us now, but nothing is impossible in football," he said.

"We're going to work hard, win games and see what happens. And of course, there's the Champions League and the Copa del Rey too. There's plenty for us to win this season."

Real Madrid are in third place in the Spanish league, four points behind second-placed Atletico Madrid and have dropped even further behind Barcelona after they were held to a 0-0 draw at lowly Osasuna on Saturday.

They looked a shadow of the team that romped to the Liga title last season.

Real Madrid will face Premier League leaders Manchester United in the first leg of their Champions League last 16 clash on February 13.

"No team's unbeatable, but when we're at our best we're a really good side. Manchester United have started the English championship race very well and are a long way ahead of the rest, but still, if we play the way we're capable of, we can beat them," Ronaldo said.

"To do that we need to pull together and play as a team, like we've done in so many matches before."



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## Football: Messi keeps record-breaking Barca 11 points clear



MADRID (AFP) - Barcelona set a new record for the best-ever start to a La Liga season on Sunday when a 3-1 win at Malaga allowed them to remain 11 points clear of Atletico Madrid and 18 in front of Real Madrid.

Ballon d'Or winner Messi scored for a ninth successive league game and then supplied Cesc Fabregas and Thiago Alcantara for the second and third goals. He now has 28 for La Liga season.

Barcelona have 55 points from 19 games with 18 wins and a draw, breaking the previous mark for the halfway stage of the campaign which they set at 52 points in the 2010-2011 season.

"We're very happy to get 55 out of 57 points, but logically it will be difficult to repeat that with the Champions League and the Spanish Cup to think about as well," said Barca coach Tito Vilanova.

"We have Atletico 11 points behind us and we have to go there and to Real Madrid so

we can't just stop now, we have to keep going."

Willy Caballero in the Malaga goal was determined to show why his side have the best defensive record in La Liga and he robbed the ball from Messi's foot when it seemed the Argentinian would dance round him to open the scoring on seven minutes.

He was alert again to block at the feet of Pedro Rodriguez but he could do nothing when Messi intercepted a poor back pass from Ignacio Camacho on 27 minutes and cut back to avoid the advancing keeper, before sliding the ball home for the opener.

The home side, who started the day in fourth spot, were struggling to create chances and it wasn't until a Roque Santa Cruz glancing header on 37 minutes that Victor Valdes was first called into action in the Barca goal.

Fabregas doubled the lead five minutes into the second period when Messi found the former Arsenal captain with a

perfectly weighted chip on the left hand side of the area.

He still had a lot to do but with a simple left foot control and right footed shot he slid the ball past Caballero.

Substitute Thiago wrapped things up with a left-footed drive after exchanging passes with the Argentinian with eight minutes to play before Buonanotte's consolation.

Atletico Madrid made it 10 wins out of 10 at home this season with a 2-0 victory over Zaragoza.

Portuguese midfielder Tiago Cardoso got a header and Radamel Falcao hit a penalty for the win that means Atletico stretch their lead over city rivals Real Madrid in third place to seven points.

Real could only draw 0-0 at Osasuna on Saturday.

Atletico controlled the game from start to finish and their early pressure finally paid off on 31 minutes when Tiago powerfully headed home a Gabi corner at the near post to break the deadlock.

Ten man Deportivo La Coruna, who had Evaldo dismissed with almost 30 minutes remaining, held on for an important 1-1 draw at Real Sociedad that keeps the Galician side a point ahead of Osasuna at the bottom of the table.

They went ahead with a Pizzi goal midway through the first period but Carlos Vela equalised for Sociedad with a well hit, curled shot just before the break.



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## NBA: Lakers win in Howard's return

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - The Los Angeles Lakers celebrated Dwight Howard's return from injury on Sunday with a 113-93 NBA victory over Cleveland that ended the Lakers' worst losing streak in six years.

Howard, who was sidelined for three games with a right shoulder injury, scored 22 points and grabbed 14 rebounds as the Lakers ended a six-game slide.

The Lakers hadn't lost six in a row since a seven-game losing streak in 2007.

Howard connected on nine of 11 shots from the field. Kobe Bryant led all scorers with 23 points and six assists,



and played a key role in limiting Cleveland point guard Kyrie Irving, who scored 15 points with seven assists.

Bryant said improved defense overall was key for a Lakers team that had surrendered more than 100 points in each of their past six games.

The Cavaliers, whose 9-29 record coming into the contest was the second-worst in the league, appeared to offer a good opportunity to end the

skid, but they had shocked the Lakers in Cleveland in December.

Lakers coach Mike D'Antoni said the return of Howard was part of the improvement on the defensive end, along with the solid play of Earl Clark, who was making his second start as Pau Gasol remained sidelined because of a concussion.

"It's a baby step, but it's a step," D'Antoni said.

## Lance Armstrong apologizes in person to Livestrong staff

AUSTIN (AFP) - Fallen cycling hero Lance Armstrong personally apologized Monday to staff members of the Livestrong cancer charity ahead of his much anticipated interview with talk show diva Oprah Winfrey.

"Lance came to the Livestrong Foundation's headquarters today for a private conversation with our staff and offered a sincere and heartfelt apology for the stress they've endured because of him," Livestrong spokeswoman Rae Bazzarre told AFP.

She added that Armstrong -- a cancer survivor who founded the charity in 1997 - urged Livestrong staffers "to keep up their great work fighting for people affected by cancer."

Journalists staked out Armstrong's home in Austin earlier Monday ahead of his interview with Winfrey, during which the disgraced cyclist is reportedly planning to admit to doping.

For years he has repeatedly denied taking performance enhancing drugs to win the Tour de France and other big cycling events.

The announcement that Armstrong had agreed to an interview has sparked widespread speculation that he might finally confess to being a drug cheat after years of strenuous denials.

According to USA Today, Armstrong plans to confess in the interview to doping throughout his career, but will not go into great detail about specific cases and events.

It will be Armstrong's first interview since he was stripped in October of his

seven Tour de France titles after the US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) said he helped orchestrate the most sophisticated doping program in sports history.

Any confession by Armstrong could have legal or financial ramifications, particularly among big-name corporate sponsors such as Nike that had loyally stood by him even as doping allegations grew.

Since the International Cycling Union effectively erased him from the record books, Britain's The Sunday Times has sued Armstrong for more than £1 million (\$1.6 million) over a libel payment made to him in 2006.

It had paid Armstrong £300,000 to settle a libel case after publishing a story suggesting he may have cheated, and now wants that money plus interest and legal costs repaid.

Armstrong's years of dominance in the sport's greatest race raised cycling's profile in the United States to new heights.

It also gave the Texan -- diagnosed in 1996 with late-stage testicular cancer that had spread to his brain and lungs -- a unique platform to promote cancer awareness and research.

The Lance Armstrong Foundation has raised almost \$500 million since its creation in 1997.

In the wake of the allegations, several top sponsors dumped Armstrong and on November 14 the Livestrong Foundation dropped his name from the non-profit organization he founded.



CORDOBA (AFP) : Russian Boris Gadasin competes on his G-Force Proto during the Stage 9 of the Dakar 2013 between Tucuman and Cordoba, Argentina, on January 14, 2013. The rally takes place in Peru, Argentina and Chile from January 5 to 20.

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## NFL: Falcons ground Seahawks, Patriots advance



Atlanta Falcons wide receiver Julio Jones (11) works against Seattle Seahawks outside linebacker K.J. Wright (50) and free safety Earl Thomas (29) during the second half.

ATLANTA (AFP) - Matt Bryant kicked a 49-yard field goal with eight seconds left as the Atlanta Falcons thwarted a fourth-quarter surge by Seattle for a 30-28 second-round NFL playoff victory on Sunday.

The Falcons blew a 20-point second-half lead but managed to hold off upstart Seattle and advance to the National Conference championship game.

"We knew coming into it, it was going to be tough. That's a very good defense" Ryan said of Seattle. "Luckily we made enough plays to come out with the win."

Quarterback Matt Ryan tossed three touchdown passes en route to his first playoff victory for the Falcons, who had lost their last four playoff contests.

Running back Michael Turner carried the ball 14 times for 98 yards and fifth-year Falcons quarterback Ryan completed 24-of-35

passes for 250 yards.

Atlanta, who are the No. 1 seed in the NFC, will host the San Francisco 49ers in the first of two games next Sunday with a Super Bowl berth on the line. The 49ers advanced Saturday with a win over Green Bay.

In the late game Sunday, the New England Patriots advanced to the American Conference championship game with a 41-28 victory over Houston. The Patriots will next face the Baltimore Ravens who edged Denver 38-35 in double overtime.

The conference champions will meet in the Super Bowl in New Orleans on February 3.

Sunday's win could prove to be costly for the Patriots who fear they may be without star tight end Rob Gronkowski for the rest of the playoffs after he left the game in the first quarter with an arm injury.

Seattle rookie quarterback Russell Wilson looked poised

to continue his Cinderella run Sunday but his sensational season ended with Bryant's field goal.

Wilson finished 24-of-36 for a playoff team record 385 yards with two touchdown passes and one interception. Wilson also rushed for 60 yards and a touchdown. The defeat snapped Seattle's six-game winning streak.

Marshawn Lynch finished with 46 yards and a touchdown on 16 carries for the Seahawks, who have lost their last four NFL playoff quarter-final games.

Atlanta's defense held Seattle scoreless in the first half while the Falcons offense built a 20-0 lead thanks to a pair of touchdown passes from Ryan and two Bryant field goals.

Wilson engineered Seattle's rally, leading the Seahawks to three scoring drives on their first three possessions of the second half.

Lynch busted through for a

two-yard touchdown to put the Seahawks ahead, 28-27, with 31 seconds left in the fourth.

That set the stage for Bryant's game-winning field goal.

The last time the Falcons advanced to the penultimate round was in 2004, when Jim Mora was the head coach and Michael Vick was the quarterback.

Ryan took over as the face of the franchise four years ago after disgraced quarterback Vick went to prison for his role in a dog-fighting ring.

Tom Brady threw for 344

yards and three touchdowns en route to his 17th career playoff win as a starting quarterback, moving him past Joe Montana into first place on the league's all-time list.

Brady completed 25-of-40 passes without an interception in the win over the Texans at Gillette Stadium.

Shane Vereen caught two of Brady's touchdown passes while also adding a rushing touchdown to get New England back in the AFC title game.

The Patriots edged the Ravens 23-20 in a thriller in last year's contest.

## NBA: Knicks sting Hornets to end slide

NEW YORK (AFP) - Carmelo Anthony scored 27 points and rookie Chris Copeland added 22 Sunday as the New York Knicks beat New Orleans 100-87 to snap a three-game National Basketball Association losing streak.

Amare Stoudemire added 12 points for the Knicks, who had five points and 14 rebounds from Tyson Chandler on the way to ending the Hornets' four-game winning streak.

"They got into a flow. Carmelo got into a big flow in the second quarter and when he is flowing, their whole team is flowing," said Eric Gordon, who led the Hornets with 22 points.

"They had a big quarter and they kept having big strides after that. We didn't play as well."

The Knicks got off to a slow start, and trailed 29-22

after the first quarter. Then Anthony came alive, outscoring the entire Hornets team 18-12 in the period.

A free throw by Anthony knotted the score at 36 with 4:19 to play in the first half, and the Knicks never trailed after that.

"We were slow again out of the box defensively, I thought," Knicks coach Mike Woodson said. "We've just got to start the game better. That's what I'm concerned about right now."

Anthony said the Knicks were determined to tighten up on defense after surrendering 29 points to the Hornets in the opening quarter.

"We came back to the huddle, at the end of the quarter, looked up and knew 29 points was definitely too many points," Anthony said. "We held them to 12, 13 points and the game turned around from there."